

Somerset Parent Carer Forum

Weekly update



YEovil OPPORTUNITY GROUP AGM

This week we were delighted to attend the Yeovil Opportunity Group AGM. Recently one of their staff members has won an award and she shared her reflections on her time at the centre.



Yeovil Opportunity Group support pre-school children with special educational needs and/or disability. They have a high ratio of staff and provide a variety of opportunities including music therapy.

SEND ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGY SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who responded. The group are now working through the feedback and will be publishing a response and the supporting action plan shortly. We will let you know when it is available on the Local Offer.

AUTISM STRATEGY ENGAGEMENT

Thank you to everyone that attended the events and shared their experiences.

Common themes included issues around EHCP's, finding suitable inclusive schools and the wait for diagnosis. We also had several examples of how services put all the child's needs down to Autism and do not always acknowledge other needs e.g mental health.

There are 2 more engagement events left and we are creating an online survey.

FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP

On Monday Rhiannon ran a workshop on planning financially for the future.

We had very positive feedback from those that attended and they felt it was very useful.

Rhiannon is going to attend some of the support groups after the holidays to talk to families about planning for the future.

Please could we ask that if you are booked onto an event that you let us know if you are unable to attend.

ASSESSMENT PLANNING & REVIEW

The group met to discuss the current situation. Currently there is a higher number of EHCP requests being received.

We also discussed the annual review process and how families are reporting back delays in changes to plans.

The group looked at the new portal for schools to submit the EHCP application and Annual reviews. The portal for parents will be developed next and we will update you soon.



Coffee mornings Yeovil and Chard

Both our coffee mornings this week were busy with parents coming to look at the new Local Offer platform. Yeovil also had a visit from School transport.

Next group is Wednesday 18th 10-12 at Taunton Library.



Short breaks

The Short breaks event was really busy this year with over 450 people attending. 2 representatives also attended the panel for funding for clubs.

